This is very well
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EXTRACT,

&c.

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EXTRACT

FROM THE

SUSSEX WEEKLY ADVERTISER

OF THE

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M,DCC,XCIII.

EXTRACT, &c.

THE meeting of the lower division of Pevensey Rape last Monday, was attended by almost all the Gentlemen, clergy, and many of the principal yeoman of the division. George Medley, Esq. being called to the chair, he read the requisition, and gave notice that no subject could be introduced except that included in the requisition. Lord Sheffield, then stated the cause of calling the meeting. He said it was known, that France, envious and dreading our prosperity, and particularly the leaders in that country, apprehensive

henſive they could never maintain their ſituation but by involving all Europe and eſpecially Great Britain, in the ſame confuſion and ruin in which France then actually was—had employed emiſſaries, and had incurred a great expence for that purpoſe. He obſerved, there is no great difficulty in exciting ſedition and miſchief among the ill-diſpoſed, who are to be found in all communities, and in impoſing on others who may be better diſpoſed; a conſiderable progreſs had been made. The machinations of the enemies of the country were known, and a ſuddenly impending danger of which government had notice, made it prudent to call all the troops within a certain diſtance, to the near neighbourhood of London, and to take other precautions, which of courſe alarmed the public. The natural conſequence was a diſpoſition to aſſociate in ſupport of the conſtitution, which includes the ſecurity of our lives, liberty and property. The ſpirit was through England, and being general, will abaſh our enemies and convince them,

that

that we are not of a temper to be the tools of their evil designs; these measures give security and inspire confidence, the life of agriculture and trade. He understood it was the wish of the greater part of the division to associate; he submitted to the meeting the form of association which he held in his hand; which being read, Gibbs Crawfurd, J. T. Fuller, and Wm. Sewell, Esqrs. delivered their sentiments with some observations on the excellence of our constitution; Mr. Sewell at some length, and his speech gave such general satisfaction, that the meeting requested it might be printed. The instrument of association was then unanimously agreed to, and signed.

THE

SPEECH

OF

WILLIAM SEWELL, Esq.

BEFORE ALLUDED TO.

GENTLEMEN,

I SHALL take the liberty of saying a few words, if you will allow me to trespass a moment or two on your patience: I will not promise that any thing that I shall say will deserve your attention; I can only answer for my motives. I am not in the habit of speaking in public; and in truth, it is the first time that I ever ventured to deliver my thoughts in this manner; I shall therefore hope for your indulgence.

I am perfectly of opinion with the noble Lord, that it is not necessary to say a great deal

deal about the Conſtitution of this country; it is much above my praiſe: it is ſufficient to obſerve, that it is not a government erected on a ſudden, by men heated in their tempers and juſt emerged from deſpotiſm; but it is the reſult of the wiſdom and labours of our anceſtors; it has been improved by the experience of ſucceeding ages; and our uniform proſperity is the trueſt criterion of its excellence; before we alter or exchange it for any other I think we have a right to ſay, ſhew us a better—ſhew us a nation more happy, more flouriſhing, and more free. The Conſtitution of this country is not the work of a day: nor do *we* reckon by *ſingle years* of liberty. Engliſhmen are not likely to learn liberty from men, who, for centuries have ſubmitted to a regular courſe of ſlavery. I know of little that is to be learnt from that nation, but cruelty and perfidiouſneſs.

Among the artifices that have been uſed to diſturb the tranquillity of mankind, much has been ſaid about equality: and that volatile

and

and giddy nation, more caught with the ſound than inquiſitive after the ſenſe, have affected to practice, and have endeavoured to propagate, what they ſeem never to have endeavoured to underſtand. Do they mean that the learned and the juſt are to be no more reſpected than the fool and the knave? Is cowardice to be ranked with courage? And are the active and the induſtrious to divide the fruits of their labour with the ſlothful and the idle? If ſuch regulations are worthy to be adopted in any country, let us not be aſhamed to call them by their proper title: let us call them as they truly would be, regulations for the encouragement of ignorance, iniquity, and ſloth. There is indeed one ſpecies of equality that I, and I truſt all Engliſhmen, do moſt heartly approve, that equality in the ſpirit and conſtruction of our laws, which to every individual, gives equal encouragement to exerciſe ſuch talents and ingenuity as Heaven has bleſt him with; and equal ſecurity to enjoy the fruits of his labour, and to tranſmit them to

his

his family, to his children, and to thoſe who are dear to him;—and let me aſk, in what country upon the Earth is that encouragement greater and more unlimited than in this? Do we not in fact behold in every part of the kingdom, men daily riſing from ſmall beginnings, to comfortable ſituations, and to the permanent enjoyment of riches and of honours, by learning, by trade, by manufactures, and by huſbandry? It is this equal encouragement and equal ſecurity, that has raiſed this country to its preſent proſperity and ſplendour: and is it for us to try experiments? France indeed may ſpeculate, ſhe has not much to looſe; her trade declining; her manufactures idle; her agriculture neglected; her people ſtarving. France doubtleſs will be happy to unite with us, citizens in common! her people come here now by hundreds; ſhe will ſend them by thouſands and by millions, to ſhare our comforts and to devour our bread. Preſumptuous people and ever in extremes! One day they are ſlaves: the next day tyrants. Firſt they wor-

ſhip,

ſhip, then they murder Princes—while on the ruins of the dethroned, perhaps of the murdered monarch, riſes a many headed bloody monſter infinitely more arbitrary and tyrannick, and ten times more formidable than any ſingle deſpot that ever exiſted upon the Globe. And ſhall we ſacrifice our Conſtitution for ſuch a tyranny? We, who are bleſt with as good, as benevolent, and as well diſpoſed a Prince, as ever ſat upon the throne of this or of any other country; a Prince, who may be truly ſaid to reign in the hearts of a grateful people.

If, gentlemen, you agree with me in the ſentiments I have expreſſed, we ſhall return thanks to our worthy Magiſtrates, and heartily concur with them in the plan of aſſociation now before us.

FINIS.